

amendments and the language that we are eliminating. We are eliminating language that says "The Department of Roads, at its discretion, may establish a testing program under a special permit procedure to utilize highways under its jurisdictions to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or objects that exceed the maximum specified by law, so on and so forth", and at the end it says, "the Department of Roads will have the widest possible latitude in establishing programs consistent with the stated objectives of this paragraph." So what we are telling the Department of Roads with the amendments that I am trying...language I am trying to strike is this, that under a special permit system, and you can call it a test or whatever you want to call it, but the fact of the matter is that it is a special permit system. It is not a test really because it is not designed for...there is no life to the test. It can run until the Legislature repeals it so it is not a test. Call it a test if you will to make it popular but it is not a test. It is a special permit system. What does a special permit system do? A special permit system allows the Department of Roads to waive the maximum requirements that we have in statute. Maximum what? Maximum weight, maximum length, maximum width or any other maximum that we have in state law. A few years ago or not long ago in this session we considered a bill that related to how we move grain combines in the State of Nebraska. Why did that bill come before the Legislature? The bill came before the Legislature because several years ago there was a personnel change in the Department of Roads, someone new came, someone came to the State of Nebraska that wasn't familiar with the way combines operate in the State of Nebraska, wasn't familiar with the history of how we move combines in the State of Nebraska. He read the statute and said, "Ah! You can't move combines during wheat harvest anymore." So we had to enact a special statute to make it clear that the Department of Roads...make it clear that you could continue to move combines from one field to the other. My point is this, what we are doing in this bill is eroding all the restrictions on weight, width, and length of vehicles in one swoop under the special permit system. Now it doesn't say "test". It just gives all the authority to the Department of Roads. Now that may be fine if we have good people out there. That may be fine if we have people that know what they are doing out there. But if we have a personnel change, if something happens, who knows what is going to happen. I think it is our prerogative to say how wide vehicles are going to be. I think it is our prerogative to decide what kind of weight is going to be on the highways of the State of Nebraska. I think it is our prerogative to decide whether we are going to have triple trailers or quadruple trailers or anything else. So I think this language should be eliminated. Ladies and gentlemen, if the trucking industry wants